

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-14, 37-43 and 54 are currently pending. Claims 1, 13, 37, 42 and 54, which are independent, are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed, and specifically at page 24, lines 3-10, page 25, lines 11-21 and Fig. 5. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and 103(a)

Claims 1-5, 10, 13, 14, 37-39, 42, 43 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Application 2002/0033888 to Yamagami.

Claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Yamagami.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Yamagami in view of U.S. Application 2001/0012067 to Spitzer et al.

Claims 11, 12, 40 and 41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Yamagami in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,257,142 to Hong.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“A recording/reproducing apparatus...comprising...

selecting means for allowing a user to select either one image signal for recording or collective downloading of a plurality of image signals;

wherein when said collective downloading is selected by said user, it is determined whether or not said second removable recording medium has available storage capacity for storing said plurality of image signals.” (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicant, U.S. Application 2002/0033888 to Yamagami relates to a user that sets an attribute generated by a digital camera to store the attribute in a file. There is disclosed a system including a host computer serving as an attribute data setting means for setting attribute data related to image data or voice data, a nonvolatile memory serving as an attribute data holding means for holding the set attribute data in a digital camera in advance, a CPU serving as a recording means for automatically adding the attribute data held in the nonvolatile memory to the image data or the voice data to record the image data or the voice data, and a media recording I/F.

As understood by Applicant, U.S. Application 2001/0012067 to Spitzer et al. relates to a camera, which is capable of meeting U.S. standards for high definition television (HDTV). The camera produces a display of 1280 pixels by 720 pixels at a rate of 60 frames per second. There is provided, as an image sensor, a frame transfer three phase buried channel CCD capable of shifting the charge from an imaging region to a storage region within a brief blanking period provided by a shuttered lens. The image sensor has an arrangement of spaced electrodes

which are electrically connected to shunts in the image sensor to transport charge, but are also arranged in the imaging region such that the geometry of the electrodes within each of the plurality of pixels is similar and thereby reduce the resistance present during shifting the charge from the imaging region to the storage region.

As understood by Applicant, U.S. Patent No. 5,257,142 to Hong relates to a video cassette recorder with a television signal storing function that can simultaneously display a current television broadcasting signal as well as television program content during a tape replacing time in picture-in-picture fashion, by adopting a solid state memory device for storing the television program content during the tape replacing time, without discontinuity of the television program content due to replacing the new tape.

Applicant submits that Yamagami, Spitzer and Hong - taken alone or in combination - do not teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicant submits that there is no teaching or suggestion of a selecting means for allowing a user to select either one image signal for recording or collective downloading of a plurality of signal images wherein when the collective downloading is selected by the user, it is determined whether or not a second removable recording medium has available storage capacity for storing the plurality of image signals, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to or somewhat similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, amended independent claims 13, 37, 42 and 54 are also believed to be patentable.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 13, 37, 42 and 54 are patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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